

Policy  
(98th)OGC 83-03152  
18 April 1983

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Commercialization of Meteorological and  
LANDSAT Satellites

On 14 April 1983 I attended a hearing on the commercialization of meteorological and land remote-sensing satellites held by the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment and the Subcommittee on Space Science and Application. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige was the only witness.

Most Representatives on the two Subcommittees expressed concern even before Mr. Baldrige gave his testimony that the Administration had already made a decision to sell the satellites before consulting with Congress, and that sufficient studies of such a transfer were not undertaken prior to the President's announcement on 8 March.

Secretary Baldrige gave a short summary of his statement. He said no final decision has been made to sell weather satellites and land remote-sensing satellites to the private sector. The proposal has been under consideration for five years. Since Japan will launch its first satellite in 1984 and France soon after, the Administration feels that now is the time to move before there is competition for the service. The Commerce Department will prepare requests for proposals (RFP's) to send out to companies who might bid on the satellites. The RFP's would spell out the requirements that would be placed on the company that makes a bid regarding national security, foreign policy and other matters. Mr. Baldrige said the RFP's would be shown to the Congress for input before they were sent out, and that Congress would be informed and consulted each step of the way. He said the only way to know if this will be a worthwhile venture is to see what kinds of bids come in--that no further studies can be made to give a definitive answer. Once an acceptable bid is received, it will then be necessary for Congress to pass legislation to authorize the transfer.

STAT

Legislation Division

(OGC:SKM:maw)

Distribution:

STAT

- 1 - [ ] (OGC)
- 1 - [ ] (GC)
- 1 - [ ] (OGC)
- 1 - OGC Chrono
- 1 - SK

✓ 1 - LED File: Space Policy (98th)